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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brenda Holmes November 17, 2008.

3. The applicant has been amended as follow:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for directing a first network client requesting access to content to one of a plurality of content servers that can provide said content, comprising: if one or more cost measurements are available that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers, then directing the first network client to a said one of said content servers based on the one or more cost measurements; otherwise, directing the first network client to a said one of said content servers using one or more cost measurements that measure operational characteristics of the network, based on

communication between a second client that is physically proximate to the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers.

2. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: obtaining a new cost measurement when said first network client accesses said content server; and using said new cost measurement as an indicator of operational characteristics of the network in connection with subsequent requests for access to said content that can be provided by said content server.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said content servers are associated with a network server having an identity, and wherein said network client requests content from said network server, and further comprising: mapping the identity of the network server to said content servers.

4. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising measuring network performance between said first network client and a said one of said content servers.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein an attribute of network performance comprises network latency.

6. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein network latency is measured passively by determining the time between a syn ack message sent by said first network client and an ack message sent by one of said content servers.

7. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising measuring network performance between said first network client and another of said content servers.

8. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining the

location of said first network client by circular intersection.

9. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said circular intersection comprises:

- (a) measuring the time that it takes for data to move from a plurality of network server locations to said first network client;
- (b) converting said times to distance equivalents;
- (c) determining a plurality of intersecting circles, wherein said distance equivalents are used as the radii of the circles and said network server locations are used as the centers of the circles; and
- (d) determining the physical location of said first network client from the intersection of said circles.

10. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising inferring network performance of serving said first network client from said content server by determining a weighted average of network performance between, said content server and other network clients based on physical proximity of said other network clients to said network client and performance of said content server for said other network clients.

11. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

- (a) measuring network latency between a content server and a plurality of other network clients;
- (b) determining physical distances between said other network clients and said first network client;
- (c) computing a weighted average of said latency measurements as a function of said distances, wherein said weighted average comprises an estimate of the latency between said content server and said first network client; and

(d) inferring operational characteristics associated with a plurality of network clients to said first network client using said weighted average.

12. (Previously Amended) A method for directing a first network client requesting access to content from a network server to one of a plurality of content servers that can provide said content, each said content server having an address, said network server having an identity, said method comprising:

(a) identifying the network server associated with the content requested by said network client;
(b) if one or more cost measurements are available that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers, then identifying a said one of said content servers based on said identity of said network server and the one or more cost measurements;

otherwise, identifying a said one of said content servers based on said identity of said network server and one or more cost measurements that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between a second client that is physically proximate to the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers; and

(c) providing the first network client with the address of said content server identified in step (b).

13. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim I2, further comprising:

(d) obtaining a new cost measurement when said first network client accesses said content server; and

(e) using said new cost measurement as an indicator of operational characteristics of the network in connection with subsequent requests for access to said content that can be provided by said

content server.

14. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising Measuring network performance between said first network client and a said one of said content servers.

15. (Original) a method as recited in claim 12, wherein an attribute of network performance comprises network latency.

16. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein network latency is measured passively by determining the time between a syn ack message sent by said first network client and an ack message sent by said one of said content servers.

17. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising measuring network performance between said first network client and another of said content servers.

18. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, determining the location of said first network client by circular intersection.

19. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said circular intersection comprises:

(a) measuring the time that it takes for data to move from a plurality of network server locations to said first network client;

(b) converting said times to distance equivalents;

(c) determining a plurality of intersecting circles, wherein said distance equivalents are used as the radii of the circles and said network server locations are used as the centers of the circles; and

(d) determining the physical location of said first network client from the intersection of said circles.

20. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising inferring network

performance of serving said first network client from said content server by determining a weighted average of network performance between said content server and other network clients based on physical proximity of said other network clients to said first network client and performance of said content server for said other network clients.

21. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

- (a) measuring network latency between a content server and a plurality of other network clients;
- (b) determining physical distances between said other network clients and said first network client;
- (c) computing a weighted average of said latency measurements as a function of said distances, wherein said weighed average comprises an estimate of the latency between said content server and said first network client; and
- (d) inferring operational characteristics associated with said other network clients to said first network client using said weighted average.

22. - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Amended) A system for directing a first network client requesting access to content to one of a plurality of content servers that can provide said content, comprising:
a programmed data processor; and
programming associated with said programmed data processor for:
determining whether one or more cost measurements are available that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers,
if so, then directing the first network client to a said one of said content servers based on the one

or more cost measurements;

if not, then directing the first network client to a said one of said content servers using one or more cost measurements that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between a second client that is physically proximate to the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers.

34. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 33, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for:

obtaining a new cost measurement when said first network client accesses said content server; and using said new cost measurement as an indicator of operational characteristics of the network in connection with subsequent requests for access to said content that can be provided by said content server.

35. (Original) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein said content servers are associated with a network server having an identity, and wherein said first network client requests content from said network server, and further comprising:

programming associated with said programmed data processor mapping the identity of the network server to said content servers.

36. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 33, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for measuring network performance between said first network client and a said one of said content servers.

37. (Original) A system as recited in claim 33, wherein an attribute of network performance comprises network latency.

38. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 37, wherein network latency is measured

passively by determining the time between a syn ack message sent by said first network client and an ack message sent by one of said content servers.

39. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 36, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for measuring network performance between said first network client and another of said content servers.

40 (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 33, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for determining the location of said first network client by circular intersection.

41. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein said circular intersection comprises:

- (a) measuring the time that it takes for data to move from a plurality of network server locations to said first network client;
- (b) converting said times to distance equivalents;
- (c) determining a plurality of intersecting circles, wherein said distance equivalents are used as the radii of the circles and said network server locations are used as the centers of the circles; and
- (d) determining the physical location of said first network client from the intersection of said circles.

42. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 33, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for inferring network performance of server said first network client from said content server by determining a weighted average of network performance between said content server and other network clients based on physical proximity of said other network clients to said first network client and

performance of said content server for said other network clients.

43. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 33, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for:

- (a) measuring network latency between a content server and a plurality of other network clients;
- (b) determining physical distances between said other network clients and said first network client;
- (c) computing a weighted average of said latency measurements as a function of said distances, wherein said weighed average comprises an estimate of the latency between said content server and said first network client; and
- (d) inferring operational characteristics associated with a plurality of network clients to said first network client using said weighted average.

44. (Previously Amended) A system for directing a first network client requesting access to content from a network server to one of a plurality of content servers that can provide said content, each said content server having an address, said network server having an identity, said method comprising:

- (a) a programmed data processor; and
- (b) programming associated with said programmed data processor for
 - (i) identifying a the network server associated with the content requested by said first network client;
 - (ii) if one or more cost measurements are available that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between the network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers, then identifying a said one of said content servers based on said identity of said

network server and the one or more cost measurements; and

(iii) otherwise, identifying a said one of said content servers based on said identity of said network server and one or more cost measurements that measure operational characteristics of the network based on communication between a client that is physically proximate to the first network client and one or more of the plurality of content servers; and

(c) providing the first network client with the address of said content server identified in step (b).

45. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 44, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for:

obtaining a new cost measurement when said ~ network client accesses said content server; and using said new cost measurement as an indicator of operational characteristics of the network in connection with subsequent requests for access to said content that can be provided by said content sewer.

46. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 44, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for measuring network performance between said first network client and a said one of said content servers.

47. (Original) A system as recited in claim 46, wherein an attribute of network performance comprises network latency.

48. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 47, wherein network latency is measured passively by determining the time between a syn ack message sent by said network client and an ack message sent by said one of said content servers.

49. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 46, further comprising programming

associated with said programmed data processor for measuring network performance between said first network client and another of said content servers.

50. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 44, further comprising associated with said programming data processor for determining the location of said first network client by circular intersection.

51. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 50, wherein said circular intersection comprises:

(a) measuring the time that it takes for data to move from a plurality of network server locations to said first network client;

(b) converting said times to distance equivalents;

(c) determining a plurality of intersecting circles, wherein said distance equivalents are used as the radii of the circles and said network server locations are used as the center of the circles; and

(d) determining the physical location of said first network client from the intersection of said circles.

52. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 44, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for inferring network performance of serving said first network client from said content server by determining a weighted average of network performance between said content server and other network clients based on physical proximity of said other network clients to said first network client and performance of said content server for said other network clients.

53. (Previously Amended) A system as recited in claim 44, further comprising programming associated with said programmed data processor for:

- (a) measuring network latency between a content server and a plurality of other network clients;
- (b) determining physical distances between said other network clients and said first network client;
- (c) computing a weighted average of said latency measurements as a function of said distances, wherein said weighed average comprises an estimate of the latency between said content server and said network client; and
- (d) inferring operational characteristics associated with a plurality of network clients to said network client using said weighted average.

54.-64. (Cancelled)

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no latter than the payment of the issue fee, and avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272- 3929. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ***William Vaughn*** can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information

regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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